

the national headlines delivering the grim news that citizens of Milwaukee were dying as a result of an infestation by the parasite cryptosporidium in the city's drinking water. By the time the parasite infestation had fully run its course, 104 Milwaukee residents had died, and over 400,000 had suffered from a debilitating illness.

What was the cause of the infestation? Government inaction. While we can all talk at length, and with good justification, about examples of over-regulation, we must recognize that there are instances in which the Federal Government has not done enough to protect our citizens. Mr. President, parasite contamination in drinking water is one of those cases. The 104 deaths and 400,000 illnesses in Milwaukee are but one example attesting to that fact. In reality, while the Milwaukee incident is the largest reported outbreak in U.S. history, it is just one of many outbreaks nationwide. Other major outbreaks in recent years include a 1987 cryptosporidium outbreak in Carrollton, GA, that sickened 13,000 people, and a 1992 cryptosporidium incident in Jackson County, OR that caused 15,000 people to become ill. There are numerous other examples of parasite contamination nationwide.

In reaction to the lack of Federal Government action in this area, the city of Milwaukee has gone ahead with its own efforts to protect its residents against water-borne parasites such as cryptosporidium. But other communities are still vulnerable.

Mr. President, I support efforts to require a thoughtful cost-benefit justification to be made for Federal regulations. I think that that makes eminent sense given the complexity of risks that exist today. But I urge my colleagues to exercise some judgment and common sense when it comes to matters as important and as dangerous as parasite contamination in drinking water. We can sit in our towers of philosophical purity and vote party line on matters of general policy, but when it comes to life and death realities for the people of this Nation, we must use common sense.

So again Mr. President, I am upset by the actions of the Governmental Affairs Committee yesterday to prevent EPA from moving forward with regulations to protect our citizens from parasite contamination in drinking water. It is my hope that when the regulatory moratorium legislation reaches the floor, my friends on the other side of the aisle will use their good common sense when it comes to clear dangers in our drinking water. We should not be voting party line, when lives are on the line.

TRIBUTE TO JESSE LEWIS, JR.

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, Jesse J. Lewis, Jr., a Birmingham, AL, advertising and public relations executive, passed away on February 26 after a tragic automobile accident. He was the

president and chief executive officer of Jesse J. Lewis & Associates. His firm's clients included the State of Alabama, the city of Birmingham, the Birmingham Water Works Board, Midfield Dodge, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, and the Jefferson County Citizens' Coalition.

A native of Birmingham, Jesse Lewis, Jr., was one of the first blacks to attend the prestigious Indian Springs School in Pelham. He later graduated from John Carroll High School and Miles College.

In 1980, he took over the advertising firm from his father, Jesse Lewis Sr., who is publisher of the Birmingham Times newspaper, former president of Lawson State Community College, and the first black this century appointed to an Alabama Governor's cabinet; he served as director of highway traffic and safety under former Gov. George Wallace. The firm was founded in 1952, and is one of the oldest black-owned advertising and public relations companies in the country.

Jesse J. Lewis & Associates received the 1994 Travel Industry of America's Marketing and Promotion Creativity Award in the broadcast/radio category for an Alabama Bureau of Tourism commercial. Jesse, Jr. was also nominated for Business Person of the Year last year. He had a wide circle of friends crossing racial, economic, and social lines. He was extremely energetic and contributed much of his time to many civic organizations, especially those having to do with the city of Birmingham. He sat on the board of directors of the Birmingham Urban League.

Jesse Lewis, Jr.'s death at such a young age leaves a great void in his community and the business world of which he was such an integral part. He had already accomplished so much professionally, and so much more was confidently expected of him. He truly enjoyed the admiration and respect of those who knew him, including his loyal clients.

I extend my sincerest condolences to Jesse's parents, Jesse and Helen Lewis, and his brother James in the wake of their tremendous loss.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE WILLIAM HUTCHINS COLE

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, former Jefferson County, AL, Circuit Judge William Hutchins Cole, who served 18 years on the bench, passed away on February 12, 1995, at the age of 76. Judge Cole served as county circuit criminal judge until 1988, when he reached his 70th birthday. Under Alabama's judicial article, judges must retire when they turn 70. However, they may stay on as supernumerary judges—hearing cases as needed—as Judge Cole did until 1991.

During his tenure, Judge Cole presided over some of the most notorious criminal trials in Jefferson County. He was known for his sometimes stern demeanor in court. He was also known as

one of the most conscientious and hard-working jurists in Alabama.

Judge Cole was a native of Towson, MD, and a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law. He served as an FBI agent during World War II, beginning law practice in Birmingham in 1946 where he was a founding partner of the firm Jenkins, Cole, Callaway, & Vance.

Judge William Cole was an outstanding judge who contributed much to the legal community throughout his career and will be greatly missed. I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife Susan and the rest of his family in the wake of their tremendous loss.

THE CLOSING OF KORBET'S RESTAURANT

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, a longtime fixture of the Mobile, AL, area, Korbet's Restaurant closed in January after serving customers—including me and some of my staff—at the same location for 45 years. The restaurant on Airport Boulevard was a part of Mobile's Loop area beginning in 1949, when owner Nick Catranis' mother and father-in-law—George and Katie Kordomenos—moved there from their Victory Cafe in downtown Mobile. The name for the restaurant came from the first three letters of their last name combined with the first three of a partner's name.

Nick Catranis married Ethel Kordomenos and joined her family's business in 1963, managing Korbet's for the next 32 years.

Nick issued a letter to his loyal customers in December giving a heartfelt description of his family's struggle against changing times and the personal sacrifice it took to keep the operation running. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the letter be printed in the RECORD following my remarks. It is illustrative of the kinds of difficulties many small companies face in today's increasingly competitive business climate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, it was sad to see Korbet's close. It was one of the last of a vanishing breed of mom-and-pop businesses that add so much flavor and character to a community or neighborhood. I congratulate Nick and Ethel Catranis for bringing so much dining pleasure to the Mobile area for so many years, and wish them all the best for the future. Korbet's is sorely missed.

[Exhibit 1]

KORBET'S RESTAURANT,
Mobile, Ala., Dec. 27, 1994.

DEAR KORBET'S RESTAURANT CUSTOMER: Korbet's Restaurant has been a part of many families in the Mobile area since 1949.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kordomenos started Korbet's in 1949 when they came to this location from the Victory Cafe in downtown Mobile. Their devotion to their profession, to the community and their desire to succeed

made Korbet's Restaurant an institution in Mobile. They created a Mobile tradition for what would be a family gathering place for generations: a place where people proposed marriage and returned year after year to celebrate their anniversary; a place where people celebrated, graduations, retirements and other occasions; a place where families gathered for Thanksgiving and other holidays.

In return they accomplished "the American Dream." They helped their relatives back in the country that they left, they educated their children and saw their grandchildren become doctors, businessmen and pharmacists.

In 1963, my wife and I came into the family business and worked together with Mom and Dad. Then, in 1968, Dad, Mr. George Kordomenos, passed away and as you all know, Mother, Mrs. Katie Kordomenos, passed away last year.

Managing this restaurant for 32 years has taken its toll on me, I have become too wrapped up in my work. I have missed many things in my life such as not seeing my children grow up.

On January 14, 1995, Korbet's Restaurant will close its doors and will no longer serve Mobilians.

This decision is not a sudden one; it has taken much contemplation, has stirred many emotions, and has been of great consideration for many months. We feel that we have served the community as best as we personally could. As we move out of the restaurant business and diversify, we feel that we will be serving our community in other ways.

My belief for success has been that you have to get down in the trenches and work with your employees. That is what I have done and together, we have been successful.

However, in recent years the restaurant industry has made many changes; our governing bodies have imposed many new taxes, regulations, and restrictions and so the time has come for us to move on.

Turning one's back on a business such as this is hard to do. I am lucky and blessed that I'm able.

My wife Ethel, my children, and I want to thank each and every one of you, our customers and fellow workers, for your loyalty throughout the years. We sincerely regret this move.

We want to thank our many suppliers who have made our survival possible by providing quality products so we may serve our many customers throughout the years.

To all the realtors of Mobile and the many politicians who had their business meetings here and in turn molded and reshaped the city of Mobile—they changed the borders, the subdivisions, the streets, the shopping centers—we thank them and feel that we were a part of all this, too.

To the many busboys and busgirls that worked here during their school years: this being their first job in life, and where we tried to instill in them and try to teach them the importance of work in life, and where they have gone and become professionals, good citizens, and raised families. We thank them for their contribution.

To the many waitresses, cooks, cashiers, and managers who worked endless, long and hard hours and have raised their families and educated their children: we thank you for your contribution.

To our many loyal customers and the many that we have spoiled: nothing could have been possible without your loyalty—we will always cherish your friendship and loyal patronage.

And finally, to my wife and children, whom I deprived many things for 32 years by working all day and all night often till 2:00 a.m., thank you for your support.

And now Korbet's Restaurant will go down in history as other great family businesses have, such as Hays Davis Packing, Constantines Restaurant, Gulas Restaurant, Metropolitan Restaurant, Government Street Lumber, Wintzell's Restaurant and many others.

On behalf of our management and staff, we want our customers to know you will be missed.

And so as the world goes around, so must we.

Sincerely,

NICK AND ETHEL CATRANIS.

PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE TO RESPOND TO GULF WAR VETERANS' NEEDS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, last month we commemorated the 50th anniversary of Iwo Jima. Iwo Jima holds a special place in our national consciousness because of the mythic heroism of those who fought there—and because of the ultimate sacrifice made by those who died there.

Grateful as we are to the veterans of Iwo, the truth is: Every veteran has performed an act of heroism, and every veteran deserves this Nation's support. Not simply our gratitude. But our support, while they are on the battlefield, and after they leave it.

This week, during an address to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, President Clinton announced a number of initiatives that will provide for some of our newest veterans—the veterans of the gulf war—the support which they clearly need and deserve.

I want to focus in particular on one of those initiatives.

The President announced that he is creating a Presidential advisory committee on gulf war veterans' illnesses. This will be the first fully independent panel to examine the issues surrounding what has come to be known as gulf war syndrome, the chronic medical problems suffered by many gulf war veterans and, in some cases, their spouses and children.

There are currently 30 studies being conducted on the gulf war syndrome.

The advisory committee will act as a clearinghouse. It will coordinate research efforts into the causes and treatment of gulf war-related illnesses.

It will also conduct aggressive outreach efforts to make sure that gulf war veterans and the medical professionals who treat them are kept fully informed of any advances.

The advisory committee will work with the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Health and Human Services. And they will report directly their findings and recommendations directly to the President before the year is out.

America showed 4 years ago during the gulf war what we can accomplish when we mobilize all our resources to achieve a goal.

The veterans of that conflict are now relying on us to marshal our resources once again to provide them with the medical care they need and deserve.

Whether an injury is diagnosed or undiagnosed; whether it was caused by a bullet, by some invisible, poisonous gas, or by any other factor, it is still a service-related injury, and the man or woman who suffered it deserve our support.

In the last session I worked with my friend and colleague Senator ROCKEFELLER to develop legislation that would give VA the authority to pay compensation to ailing gulf war veterans, even if the exact nature of their illness has not yet been diagnosed. Congress passed that legislation because it was the right thing to do.

For more than a decade, I fought to gain compensation for veterans whose illnesses were caused by exposure to agent orange in Vietnam. That battle was won eventually, but only after a science proved what commonsense already told us: that there was a clear scientific link between agent orange and the illnesses.

Let us not repeat that mistake.

When the men and women who fought in the gulf were called to serve they did not say, "Let us conduct a study." They did their duty.

Now a grateful Nation should do its duty.

The President's advisory committee will help us perform that duty with the least possible duplication or delay.

As a veteran myself, and as a grateful American, I salute the President's initiative.

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

MR. PRESSLER. Mr. President, It was just ten months ago when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein came before this body—and the world—to make an unprecedented call for peace in the Middle East. This week, Secretary of State Warren Christopher travels to Israel in an effort to jump start the peace process and help forge an agreement between Israel and Syria over perhaps the most vexing issue of the peace process: the status of the Golan Heights. However, as the people of Israel know all too well, the road to peace is a long and arduous one. Now more than ever, we must bolster our support for our greatest ally in the Middle East—Israel—and adopt her mission of regional peace as our own.

Without a doubt, a peaceful environment of mutual self-determination and co-existence in the Middle East is advantageous for the United States. I need not remind this body of the binding political and cultural ties that this country maintains with Israel and the great potential that an Arab-Israeli peace would have for the United States. The peace process is not solely an opportunity for improved Arab-Israeli affairs, but a unique occasion upon which the United States may attempt to ally herself with countries that, in the past, have vehemently refused to open their doors to the West.